

**CLAIMS**

We claim:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a portability component that automatically updates one or more provisioning  
5 components to port a directory number for a duration of time.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein upon initiation of a request to port the  
directory number, the portability component receives one or more identifiers  
associated with the one or more provisioning components;

wherein the portability component employs the one or more identifiers to  
10 notify the one or more provisioning components of the request to port the directory  
number for the duration of time.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the request to port the directory number comprises an association between the directory number and a location routing number;

wherein upon initiation of the request to port the directory number, the  
5 portability component provides the association to a management component;

wherein the management component provides the association to one or more local number portability databases associated with the one or more provisioning components;

wherein one or more network components associated with the one or more  
10 provisioning components and the one or more local number portability databases cooperate to provide and/or terminate service for the directory number for the duration of time based on the association.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the one or more provisioning components comprise a ported-from provisioning component and a ported-to provisioning component, wherein the one or more identifiers associated with the one or more provisioning components comprise a first identifier associated with the ported-from provisioning component and a second identifier associated with the ported-to provisioning component;

wherein the directory number is associated with a telephony device, wherein the portability component communicates with the ported-from provisioning component through employment of the first identifier to terminate service for the telephony device for the duration of time;

wherein the portability component communicates with the ported-to provisioning component through employment of the second identifier to provide service for the telephony device for the duration of time.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the ported-from provisioning component is associated with a first service provider, wherein the ported-to provisioning component is associated with a second service provider;

wherein the portability component cooperates with the ported-from provisioning component and the ported-to provisioning component to port the directory number from the first service provider to the second service provider for the duration of time.

6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the ported-from provisioning component provides a first set of services to the telephony device, wherein the ported-to provisioning component provides a second set of services to the telephony device;

wherein the portability component cooperates with the ported-from provisioning component to terminate access to the first set of services by the telephony device for the duration of time;

wherein the portability component cooperates with the ported-to provisioning component to provide access to the second set of services by the telephony device for the duration of time.

10 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein upon expiration of the duration of time, the portability component in combination with the one or more provisioning components port the directory number back to an initial state.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the one or more provisioning components comprise a ported-from provisioning component and a ported-to provisioning component;

wherein the ported-to provisioning component initiates a request to the portability component to port the directory number for the duration of time;

wherein upon receipt of the request to port the directory number, the portability component notifies the ported-from provisioning component of the request to port the directory number.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a subscriber database that comprises a subscriber entry for the directory number;

wherein the portability component and the ported-from provisioning

5 component cooperate to change the subscriber entry in the subscriber database from the initial state to a ported state;

wherein the subscriber database and a switch component cooperate to terminate service at a network for a telephony device associated with the directory number.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein upon expiration of the duration of

10 time, the portability component and the ported-from provisioning component cooperate to change the subscriber entry in the subscriber database from the ported state to the initial state;

wherein the subscriber database and the switch component cooperate to restart the service at the network for the telephony device associated with the directory

15 number.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the subscriber database and the switch component cooperate to notify one or more callers to the directory number of the expiration of the duration of time to port the directory number.

12. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the subscriber database and the  
20 switch component cooperate to notify a user of the telephony device associated with the directory number of a period of time remaining until the expiration of the duration of time to port the directory number.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein one of the one or more provisioning components initiates a request to port the directory number for the duration of time, wherein the request comprises a value for the duration of time, the apparatus further comprising:

5 a timer component that determines an expiration of the duration of time to port the directory number based on the value for the duration of time;

wherein upon the expiration of the duration of time to port the directory number, the portability component and the timer component cooperate to port the directory number back to an initial state.

10 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein upon the expiration of the duration of time to port the directory number, the timer component sends to the portability component a notification of the expiration of the duration of time and the directory number;

wherein upon receipt of the notification from the timer component, the  
15 portability component employs the directory number to notify the one or more provisioning components of the expiration of the duration of time associated with the directory number;

wherein the one or more provisioning components port the directory number back to the initial state.

15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the value for the duration of time comprises a first value for the duration of time;

wherein upon receipt of a request to reset the value for the duration of time, the portability component provides a second value for the duration of time to the timer component;

wherein the timer component employs the second value for the duration of time to determine the expiration of the duration of time.

16. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portability component comprises one or more interfaces with the one or more provisioning components, wherein the portability component employs the one or more interfaces to receive one or more identifiers associated with the one or more provisioning components and a value for the duration of time from the one or more provisioning components.

17. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portability component stores an association between the directory number and one or more location routing numbers, wherein a telephony device associated with the directory number receives service associated with the location routing number;

wherein upon an expiration of the duration of time, the portability component removes the association between the directory number and the location routing number, wherein the telephony device receives service associated with the directory number and/or one of the one or more location routing numbers.

18. A method, comprising the step of:

automatically updating one or more provisioning components to port a  
directory number for a duration of time.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of automatically updating the  
5 one or more provisioning components to port the directory number for the duration of  
time comprises the steps of:

receiving a request to port the directory number, wherein the request comprises  
one or more identifiers associated with the one or more provisioning components, a  
value for the duration of time, and an association between the directory number and a  
10 location routing number;

providing the association to one or more of the one or more provisioning  
components through employment of one or more of the one or more identifiers upon  
receipt of the request;

setting a ported-out flag associated with the directory number;  
15 determining an expiration of the duration of time through employment of the  
value for the duration of time;

notifying one or more of the one or more provisioning components through  
employment of one or more of the one or more identifiers upon the expiration of the  
duration of time; and

20 clearing the ported-out flag associated with the directory number upon the  
expiration of the duration of time.



20. The method of claim 19, wherein a first provisioning component of the one or more provisioning components is associated with a first service provider, wherein a second provisioning component of the one or more provisioning components is associated with a second service provider, wherein the step of clearing  
5 the ported-out flag associated with the directory number upon the expiration of the duration of time, the method further comprising the steps of:

porting the directory number from a network of the first service provider to a network of the second service provider;

terminating service for a telephony device associated with the directory number  
10 on the network of the first service provider;

providing service for the telephony device on the network of the second service provider;

receiving a notification of the expiration of the duration of time;

porting the directory number from the network of the first service provider to  
15 the network of the second service provider;

terminating service for the telephony device associated with the directory number with the second service provider; and

providing a message indicating the expiration of the duration of time to a user of the telephony device associated with the directory number.

21. An article, comprising:  
one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media; and  
means in the one or more media for automatically updating one or more  
provisioning components to port a directory number for a duration of time.